

April 26, 2004

**City of Milton-Freewater
City Council Minutes**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session on Monday, April 26, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Albee Room of the Library.

The following members were present: Mayor Key, Councilors Saager, Lyon, Humbert, Woods, Records, Kelley and Youth Representative Miller. Staff members present were City Manager Delphine Palmer, Assistant City Manager Linda Hall, City Planner Gina Hartzheim, Finance Director Dave Richmond, Fire Chief Sam Hubbard, Public Works Superintendent Howard Moss, Electric Superintendent Mike Charlo and Police Chief Mike Gallaher. Citizens present were Mary Shelton, Lyla Lampson, Gordon Hall, Gordon Key, Kim Key and Pat Thomson.

Members of the press present were Jeanette McKibben of the Blue Mountain Pioneer, Kathy Korengal of the Walla Walla Union Bulletin and Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald.

PRESENTATION by City Manager Delphine Palmer. Ms. Palmer stated that a few weeks ago the City experienced a severe fire that broke out in Cherry Hill Apartments where individuals that were trapped called from inside their apartment. Our firefighters and some volunteers were able to save a man, and woman and a child from that burning apartment. There were three individuals that helped particularly in this rescue and the City would like to award them for their Excellence and Bravery. Sam Hubbard, Gordon Key and Gordon Hall. "From all of us, we would like to thank you very very much. It was a great job. Thank you."

Fire Chief Sam Hubbard stated he appreciated the award and felt it represented the entire fire department and also wanted to especially thank Gordon Key, as he went before the firefighters arrived without regard for his own personal safety, and also aided Mr. Hubbard so he would not be injured as well. Gordon Hall stepped up and helped three of the families that were burned out on that day by offering his laundry services. Mr. Hubbard reported that every washer and dryer was used in Mr. Hall's Laundromat to clean everyone's clothing. The people really appreciated this as did Mr. Hubbard. Mr. Hubbard further said he felt that these two are outstanding people in our community that were there for all of us on that day.

UPDATE Lyla Lampson on the PETS Program. Lyla Lampson, PETS Program, passed a handout to council members. Ms. Lampson expressed her surprise in what the PETS program has accomplished this year. The program began a year ago last November. There were three people that wanted to do something to help the animals. The program has grown to twelve people and the PETS program is now applying for non-profit status. The PETS program sponsored the Oregon Neutermobile in February and March with over sixty volunteers that served almost three-thousand hours. PETS spent \$40,000 on

spay and neuter during the past year and these funds were from grants, veterinarian aid and large donations from a few individuals. The City donated \$250.00 and the program has had a few fundraisers. Ms. Lampson reported that over 663 animals in Milton-Freewater alone were spayed or neutered last year. Over 300 animals were spayed or neutered in the surrounding area as far as Kennewick and Dayton, Washington. There is a program with two local veterinarians where they give a 25% discount to fix pets and then they donate the proceeds to the PETS program. This has raised more than \$2,000. The Neutermobile fixed 677 animals where 348 animals were from Milton-Freewater. With all the animals fixed over 300 were feral cats. The goal is to reduce the over-population of animals without a home. There have been some adoptions, but that has not been a focus. Ms. Lampson addressed the case with Ms. Bonnie Vogan in that a neighbor had moved, leaving twenty cats behind. Ms. Lampson stated there are State laws governing the abandonment of animals, yet when it was reported that a person moved to another part of town, leaving her animals behind, nothing happened to the individual, yet Ms. Vogan, who takes care of the twenty cats and made sure they were all fixed, she will now be cited under a nuisance violation. Ms. Lampson further explained that Ms. Vogan had tried to take these cats to the Humane Society in Walla Walla where the City pays fees to have their service, but the society told Ms. Vogan they would charge her \$20.00 per animal to take them. Ms. Vogan said she could not afford this. Ms. Lampson then said that last year the program worked on a trap, neuter and return program, where cat populations were reduced significantly—in some areas as much as 50%. Ms. Lampson said that the City Police Department has been very positive to work with, they have agreed in writing to support PETS, and if the PETS program fixes a cat that the owner did not want fixed, the police department has supported the PETS program with this issue as well. Ms. Lampson suggested that the City offer immunity to caretakers involved in the Trap, Neuter and Return program as long as they are meeting the guidelines, and also to enforce pet abandonment laws.

Councilor Woods stated he felt that the feces, from twenty cats, is unreasonable for any neighbor to tolerate and also having cats spray all over tires is unreasonable as well. He asked what Ms. Lampson's suggestions would be to resolve these kind of issues. Ms. Lampson said she told Ms. Vogan to place litter boxes in her yard, and as for businesses, they would have to install cat-proof fencing to eliminate spraying of property. City Manager Delphine Palmer said there are a number of solutions to keeping cats off your property. Ms. Lampson said there are no easy answers. The City spends \$2,400 annually for services at the Humane Society and the PETS program is spending \$40,000 annually on prevention.

Councilor Lyon said he did not feel that businesses should incur expenditures to control animals that do not belong to them. Ms. Lampson then asked why Ms. Vogan would feed cats that did not belong to her. Councilor Lyon suggested to eliminate the spay and neuter process and just get rid of the animals.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS: The consent calendar included minutes from the April 12, 2004 council meeting, and also RESOLUTION NO. 1952 Authorizing Signature to the Special Transportation Fund Grant Agreement. Assistant City Manager Linda Hall stated she placed this resolution under the consent calendar as she did not believe council would reject \$39,500 in unmatched funds to aid in the Senior/Disabled Taxi Ticket program. This grant is from funds passed through Umatilla County and the STF Committee and we are grateful to have them. Councilor Kelley moved to adopt the consent calendar. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mayor Key announced this was the opportunity for citizens to approach the council with issues not on this agenda.

Mary Shelton, 22 E. Tietan, Walla Walla/owner of property on Walnut Street, stated the City had granted an approval for the neighboring property owner on Walnut Street to install electrical and sewer for an RV hookup in the back yard. Ms. Shelton said she understood that a person could live in an RV in the City for only two weeks. Ms. Shelton questioned when the two weeks would begin, if it is enforced on the honor system, does the time begin when it is turned in, or does the City enforce this. Ms. Shelton said she also understood the RV hookup could be for only one RV and the neighbor has installed for two RV hookups. Ms. Shelton presented an old picture to City Planner Gina Hartzheim. Ms. Shelton asked when the two weeks begins. Assistant City Manager Linda Hall stated that it was difficult to know when and where everything in the City is happening, but as soon as the City becomes aware by way of complaint, the investigation would begin. Ms. Shelton asked if the City enforces this code. Ms. Hall said the City does enforce their codes. Ms. Shelton then said she was bringing this to the attention of the City as one RV was there when she checked the property before the last council meeting. Ms. Hall asked if they were staying there permanently and Ms. Shelton said no, but that they were paying for the sewer hookup so that they could stay in the RV. Councilor Woods said that previously it had been determined that when a person is cooking in their RV, they are living in it.

NEW BUSINESS

TABLED CONSIDERATION of Request for Ambulance Subsidy by MF Rural Fire and Ambulance Service. Assistant City Manager Linda Hall stated that staff did not have any report this evening. The only new information that City is presenting is a request by Councilor Lyon to research how the City of Pendleton runs their ambulance franchise. That information was included in the council packets. Ms. Hall said the information may be interesting, but may not fit the City of Milton-Freewater's intent as the City of Pendleton actually has the ambulance franchise. They operate the franchise with their own paid staff.

City Manager Delphine Palmer requested City Attorney Doug Hojem address the issue of providing additional funds for the ambulance service. Mr. Hojem said he did not have an opinion about what council should do with the request for subsidy, only the parameters

that should be considered. First, council should recognize that whoever the provider is for this service, it will not be a provider owned and operated by the City of Milton-Freewater, so when city taxpayer's funds are used to fund ambulance service, the City would have to ensure that whatever is done with these funds is a proper use of taxpayer money so that the City is not making it possible for individuals outside the City who do not pay taxes towards the City's tax fund to benefit from City taxpayer's money. An example: During the 1980s in Walla Walla there was an effort at that time by the City manager of Milton-Freewater to work with the City of Walla Walla to define what proportion of calls came to the City of Milton-Freewater and what proportion went to the City of Walla Walla and what proportion of calls went to the rural areas of both counties, so that when the City is asked to support a business that the City can pay their fair share and nothing more, nothing less. This is an area to be considered as the provider does service areas beyond the unincorporated areas of the City, and if the City were the only funding agency, residents in rural areas would receive a "free ride." Council will also need to assure that when Council considers funding that the City is funding what is properly needed with regard to the provider itself. In essence, the City would have to be assured that funding for the ambulance service would not cross over to the private fire department. The City would need to have the right to a full review of financial records and an audit to assure, through general accounting principles, what is being stated as a need, is, in fact, a need that relates to ambulance service and only the ambulance service. Mr. Hojem further said that back in the 1980s then City Manager Jim Swayne performed a survey of cities to determine their cost and if the cost was significantly different, there had to be a reason for the cost to be significantly different than other cities. Then ultimately, the City will have to determine who their provider will be as this would be a new contract, and as in the service contracts provided, the City would probably want an RFP (Request For Proposal) process so that all who would be interested in providing the services can come to the City and submit what they can do for the City, and this is what we will need from the City. Mr. Hojem made it clear that these "needs" do not have to be limited to money. In the RFP process the City can consider issues such as response time, training of employees and/or volunteers, equipment availability. To simplify, the City would need to determine if there is a need, know what the need arises from to meet the need, watch for extra-territorial spending of taxpayer money, and also consider the RFP process so that anyone who is capable of providing the services can submit a proposal, and then in wisdom the best proposal is chosen. Mr. Hojem then said the current provider through the Umatilla County franchise system does have the opportunity at any time to say they can not afford this anymore and give sixty-days notice.

Tom Groat, Umatilla County Emergency Operations Supervisor, said that this is the county's ambulance service plan. It becomes sort of a mysterious thing here with all the proceedings, and the best solution that Mr. Groat reported would be to create a special service district and the green area (a map that Mr. Groat passed to council) is the ambulance service area and then the black/dark blue line is the Milton-Freewater school district. These areas are close to each other and that would give a basis to discuss numbers. The process that the County goes through is ambulance franchising that is laid out in statute. The purpose of it is to ensure that we have adequate ambulance coverage throughout the county without having a lot of different companies essentially chasing

wreckers and police cars to make money for their ambulance business. The County goes through a process similar to what Mr. Hojem referred to as an RFP, and the County gets proposals generally from the same people that are currently providing ambulance service, and, with the exception of the Milton-Freewater Ambulance Service, they are connected to some unit of government. The City of Pendleton operates an ambulance service and the rest of the ambulance services are operated by special districts. Hermiston Fire and Emergency Service is a special district. The County has an ambulance advisory committee, which is made up of a medical officer, doctors that supervise the ambulance service, and a number of other people. The advisory committee reviews the proposals and interviews each provider at a special meeting, and then makes a recommendation to the County Commissioners, and then the County Commissioners may or may not accept the committee's recommendation for a franchise to a provider. At that point, the County is finished in the process for three years, at which time the County will go through this process again. The State of Oregon regulates the ambulance service provider, setting up requirements and statutes.

Mr. Groat went back to his best idea, the special service district. This would include the ambulance service area, so for purposes of how much this would cost, Mr. Groat went to the school district boundary because it is about the same area. Mr. Groat said there was a figure to raise \$140,000.00 to help support the current ambulance service and if that were the number needed, the cost to school district area property owners would be \$0.40 per \$1,000 for ambulance service. This would require a vote of the people and the district has to be voted on in a primary or general election to form the district. May 6, 2004 is the filing deadline for this year's general election for this issue. That would mean there would have to be a considerable amount of work done between now and May 6th to accomplish this during this election year, and realistically, Mr. Groat felt this was not feasible. Approximately 900 signatures would be required (15% of registered voters) in the district area. There are 5781 registered voters in the school district at last count. Then the City would have to do a resolution to form a district, appoint directors of the district, etc., and then the district would do an RFP for the County and the County would go through their process. Mr. Groat spoke with one county commissioner regarding this option and if the petition was done, the petition would then be presented to the County Commissioner and they would set the election. The signatures would need to be across the service area, not just the city limits, and then the County Commissioners would need to be convinced there is a need for a service area. There also has to be an economic feasibility study for the formation of a district. Mr. Groat stated that the last serial levy approved was a three-year levy in 1997 in the amount of \$21,000.00 for the City of Milton-Freewater only. With the creation of a special district, the election ballot would have two questions: 1) Should a district be created, and 2) should we levy a tax. Mayor Key stated that in the case of a district, the tax would become permanent, not just a temporary levy. Mr. Groat said that if the district is formed, the board of directors would be termed. Councilor Humbert asked if the district was formed if the tax could be based on its own separate entity because if tax is included in the property tax, only property owners would be paying for the service. If a district is formed, could they find an alternative solution to spread the cost amongst everyone so that everyone is paying their fair share, or will this enter into legalities. City Attorney Doug Hojem stated that if there

were a district, the district would still impose user fees and they would still bill insurance companies and Medicare to obtain those revenues, but as with other funding sources, most come from property taxes, and since we do not impose a sales tax, property tax is about the only tax that could be imposed along with user fees. Councilor Humbert asked if property tax was the only option. Mr. Hojem said that at one time it was suggested whether a charge could be added to utility bills, but the courts recognized this as a disguised tax and if it is not done properly, it would never be accepted. By statute, a line-item cannot be added to the utility bill. There are grant funds that may be available, but in terms of taxes, nothing comes to mind other than property tax. Councilor Humbert asked about a parcels tax, a new concept that taxes a parcel of land a fixed fee regardless the size of the parcel. Mr. Hojem said he could research this. Councilor Woods said that the farmers, with their acreage, would pay much more than a single household in the city, yet the service per household is the same. Mr. Hojem again said he would have to research the concept. Councilor Woods asked several questions: 1) is there preclusion for Mr. Saager telling everyone about a subscription service, and 2) is there a preclusion for having a subscription service, and 3) is there a preclusion for the City helping Mr. Saager advertise and collect the funds for him. Mr. Hojem stated that first, Mr. Saager's business is a private entity and when public resources are used to benefit a private entity the question becomes proper expenditures of the public's funds. Regarding subscription service, Mr. Hojem did not think there would be any prescription against a subscription program if the district were formed. Mr. Hojem felt that lines may be crossed when City funds are used to promote private business, in answer to the question, how much can the City do to help Mr. Saager's business. That is not to say the City cannot cooperate in some way that does not require an expenditure of funds and giving the example of stuffing a flyer in the utility bills for Mr. Saager, but in terms of spending city funds, until the City has identified a service provider that the City has selected, the city would not be well advised to spend public funds by assisting a private business, even though it is a business that the City supports because currently, the ambulance contract is with the County, not the City. Councilor Woods used the Charter Cable Company as an example of collecting fees at the City level, stating the City collects the fees and the cable company pays the City a certain fee for this service. Ms. Hall stated the cable company does have a franchise agreement with the City, not the County. Mr. Hojem said he would prefer to research statutes to ensure he is advising correctly, but felt that if a fee were charged to assist in that respect. Councilor Kelley said that under this current contract that Mr. Saager has with the County, he is not allowed to collect fees from the citizens other than what he can collect back from insurance, Medicaid/Medicare. She understood he cannot go on top of the existing contract and determine that everyone that lives here must now be charged \$55 annually (hypothetically). Mr. Hojem said the franchise agreement does not address this issue, but perhaps the real question here is that until Mr. Saager were to give his sixty-day notice, he is obligated to provide the service in the entire service area, and if he decides to dissolve the business financially, Mr. Saager can notify the County with a sixty-day notice and then he is done. But there is nothing in the franchise agreement that says he cannot have a subscription service. Councilor Kelley said she felt that until Mr. Saager notified the county with his sixty-day notice that the City is ahead of itself in discussing these options. Mr. Groat said he felt that since Mr. Saager has expressed a long-term economic future that is not good, the City would want

to be prepared to offer aid. If Mr. Saager would decide to close down his business in sixty days, the County would then determine what needs to be done to maintain ambulance service within the service area. Councilor Kelley reiterated that she felt this issue was still between Mr. Saager and the county, that she did not feel that council needed to discuss this again at another meeting and she did not feel any urgency on the part of council at this time. Mr. Groat said that if the City would want to form a district, the filing deadline is 180 days before the election and it will not go into effect the day of election. Councilor Kelley again reiterated she did not sense the urgency at this time. Councilor Saager stated that the City of Pendleton's cost for their ambulance service last year was \$2.25 million dollars, and according to the newspaper Walla Walla's cost for ambulance service is \$1.5 million annually. Our service area has had fast ambulance service at absolutely no cost. Councilor Kelley stated the City did not receive any revenues for this service as well.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Hojem stated that another avenue open for exploration is a separate ambulance service within our service area that only provides service within the city limits.

Councilor Records stated he felt that forming the district is something worth researching. Councilor Saager asked for clarification regarding the formation of a district within the confines of our city limits. Mr. Groat stated he thought this would be okay, but that the commissioners may question how rural residents will receive service. Councilor Lyon stated he felt that the City needs to do something now to aid in the support of Mr. Saager's ambulance service, that the formation of the district is not a current solution. City Manager Delphine Palmer said that Mr. Saager would not dissolve the ambulance service, but that he may have to reduce the level of service to complete his contract term. This term would then give the City time to research the special service district process. Councilor Humbert and Councilor Records concurred.

Mr. Hojem stated he may be able to have Umatilla County council research the taxing issue, if not, Mr. Hojem said he would research it himself. Ultimately, Umatilla County council would need to be comfortable with the taxing concept.

Fire Chief Sam Hubbard said that in order for the City to form a district, the County Commissioners would review our equipment and personnel to determine their qualifications. If there is no equipment and no personnel, how does the City approach forming a district? Mr. Groat said the County may want to review the existing ambulance service to determine need rather than levy a tax.

RESOLUTION NO. 1953 CITY COUNCIL DIRECTING THE WRITE-OFFS OF UNCOLLECTIBLE DEBTS. Finance Director Dave Richmond stated that the City normally removes from its books on an annual basis those accounts that have been determined uncollectible. All feasible attempts to collect these accounts have been pursued. The accounts have either been turned into the Credit Bureau of Walla Walla for more than one year as of March 2003, with no commitment to pay, or the balances owing

are less than \$20. The only other exceptions are the credit bureau's commission on accounts paid in full, or the accounts returned to the City by the credit bureau for reasons of bankruptcy or death. With this resolution, revenues will be decreased by \$40,634.23. This will be the last year the City will pay commissions on uncollectible debts because, as of January 1, 2004, the commission will be added to that debt at the collection bureau. Also, over \$7,000.00 will be written off due to deceased court debt.

Councilor Saager asked if all accounts had been turned over to the collection bureau. Mr. Richmond stated they had. Councilor Woods stated this had been done last year as well, but asked if any of these accounts are ever in receipt of money. Mr. Richmond stated that yes, sometimes the credit bureau is able to collect on some, at which time they are written back in the accounting system. Councilor Woods also asked if there was a policy in place that would not allow one of these entities to sign up again for services before paying the past due portion. Mr. Richmond said there was a policy in place; however, in the case of bankruptcy they can again sign up for services without paying the uncollected debt.

Councilor Saager moved to adopt Resolution No. 1953 to write off uncollectible debts. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 1954 Transferring Funds for Unplanned Expenditures. Public Works Superintendent Howard Moss stated that at the end of the last fiscal year, the City finished Phase III of the Wastewater Treatment project, which project straddled June and July so the City was unable to pay the contractor in the amount of \$77,522.11 during the past fiscal year, resulting in a contingency transfer of funds. A second, but related issue is to request a transfer of \$11,000.00 from contingency fund in wastewater, which has a balance of approximately \$500,000.00 due to the frugality of the City's wastewater approach of three phases in our financial plan that was set up about seven years ago to charge an extra \$5.00 monthly per customer. The \$11,000.00 requested is from the contingency fund of the sewer department to keep some momentum on finally addressing the status of storm waters that come off of the South and West hills. Mr. Moss said he had made several presentations regarding this issue and City Manager Delphine Palmer and Mr. Moss had set up a committee of staff members and started meeting on this issue after Mr. Moss had presented a small program to the council a few months ago. Mr. Moss said he felt the reserves in the sewer fund had been built up appropriately to take on a project next year.

Mayor Key clarified that the line-item fund last year went into the contingency fund instead of carry-over to that line item. Mr. Moss said it does go into the contingency or reserve fund. Councilor Humbert wanted clarification that the storm water was not going to be treated. Mr. Moss said no, the City would not treat the storm water. Councilor Woods clarified that the \$11,000.00 is just for engineering. Mr. Moss said yes.

Councilor Humbert moved to adopt Resolution No. 1954 Transferring Funds for Unplanned Expenditures. Councilor Woods seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION Request for council to initiate proceedings for vacation of portion of Merrill Street. City Planner Gina Hartzheim stated this was a request to initiate vacation proceedings for a 15-foot wide portion of Merrill Street. Merrill Street has an 80-foot wide right-of-way with no paving, curbs, or gutters at the present time. The only issue before council tonight is whether or not council would desire to initiate these vacation proceedings upon council motion. A public hearing would then be scheduled where citizens, other interested parties, and public utility as well as our City utility, would have the opportunity to be heard. With vacation proceedings in the past, if it appears there may be opposition to the request, the council has required applicants to obtain the required signatures on a petition as an alternate process that is outlined in the state statutes. The City is aware that there may be opposition with this particular request.

Councilor Humbert asked if any opposed have submitted their oppositions in writing. Ms. Hartzheim stated the City had not received any letters to date. Councilor Saager said there is definite opposition, and under those circumstances council should not initiate the vacation proceeding.

Sandro Negrete-Miranda, 221 NW 2nd, told of problems with theft from their autos, parking areas and felt that, as a contractor himself, there should be area for parking. Mayor Key stated that Mr. Miranda ask the City to vacate the alley, not council. That it was just a different procedure. Roberta Miranda passed a drawing of their property and where they would like to install a fence.

Assistant City Manager Linda Hall stated that council could not approve any vacation without a public hearing, that that has to be advertised in advance, but the issue before council this evening is whether or not council will absolve the requesting party from getting the petition of the abutting and surrounding property owners, or whether or not council will release the requesting party from that requirement, circumnavigate that process, and then pay for the advertising cost for the public hearing. What the normal procedure is, if council does not initiate proceedings, the requesting party obtains a petition that shows 2/3 of the surrounding property owners have offered their permission to have the City give this property back to you. That petition is then presented to staff. Staff prepares a staff report and begins advertising for the public hearing, which has to come before council again. Then there is a very formal process at the public hearing. Councilor Woods then stated the question was two-fold. Should council give the land back to the owner and should the City pay for the process of the public hearing or should the property owner pay for the process of the public hearing and contacting the neighbors. Councilor Saager stated that the petition included more than close neighbors, but that Ms. Hall would aid in that process. Ms. Hall concurred.

Councilor Saager moved to require Sandro Negrete and Roberta Miranda to initiate vacation proceedings. Councilor Lyon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Delphine Palmer stated that Dave Reule, from Sykes corporate office in Florida, met with staff last week. Again, Mr. Reule reiterated the contents of John Sykes letter basically saying Sykes is not willing to give the City the building or the land, but they would like to have the City aid in obtaining a purchaser for the building and the land. Ms. Palmer stated she had just been recently contacted by a person who operates a call center that is interested in the Sykes building, so a request for information was forwarded to Mr. Reule and Ms. Palmer stated she would do the follow-up on this specific issue. The person interested in the Sykes building is also interested in retaining the employees along with hiring more.

Ms. Palmer said that staff and budget committee members were all preparing for the budget meeting on Thursday, April 29th at 7:00pm.

Ms. Palmer reported that a larger speed limit sign was placed on Elizabeth Street. Hopefully this will help slow traffic in this area as per a request during the last council meeting.

Ms. Palmer stated that there will be a sign painted on the sidewalks in the business district that declare "No Bikes or Skateboards on the Sidewalks." This has become a safety problem for both bikes and skateboards.

Ms. Palmer said that on Wednesday, she was invited to attend the BMCC (Blue Mountain Community College) budget meeting, budget savings, and income generating ideas.

Ms. Palmer stated the Substation has been tested and is operational. This project saved the City money because City employees actually did all the construction themselves. There will be a grand opening soon for the substation and also the skate park.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Saager asked Public Works Superintendent Howard Moss if there were funds available to spray the small park on the corner by the senior center. Mr. Moss said he thought the weeds could be sprayed.

Councilor Kelley announced she will be going to Pendleton on Wednesday with Janelle Woollen from Horizon to make another presentation to the United Way allocations committee for funding the after-school programming that residents enjoy in Milton-Freewater. This will be the third consecutive year that Councilor Kelley has made this presentation. The program has lost another funding source through the State of Oregon in the amount of \$30,000.00. Councilor Kelley stated she would only ask what was originally presented, but will try to up the amount from there.

Mayor Key said that he, Councilor Woods, and others from the County went to John Day last Wednesday to watch the governor sign his name and while there had a discussion with Wayne Kinney, Senator Ron Wyden's representative, and the letter the City received from John Sykes was emailed to Senator Wyden's office before going to the City in order to determine if everything went well. Mayor Key said he felt some pressure from the senator's office was good.

Mayor Key also said he spoke with Cindy LeFore, and the National Guard in Milton-Freewater is being deployed. Mayor Key asked if the City should prepare a proclamation of gratitude for these people. City Manager Delphine Palmer said that the City had the banner up across City Hall in honor of all who has been called to serve, but the weather weakened the material and it tore. Mayor Key thought there could be an event at the armory with cookies and punch to send them off. Assistant City Manager Linda Hall stated she could prepare a proclamation for the next council meeting.

There being no further Council business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor